Higher Duty on Cotton Imports

4098. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether availability of large quantity of cotton has adversely affected the cotton growers of Maharashtra due to the slashed demand for indigenous cotton;

(b) the quantity of cotton imported annually during the last three years and how far it has discouraged the indigenous cotton growers from growing cotton:

(c) whether with a view to protect the interests of indigenous cotton growers, proposals have been made by levying higher duty on cotton imports: and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Total availability of indigenous cotton, total consumption of indigenous cotton and production of cotton in the State of Maharashtra during last three cotton years (October—September) are as under :

(Quantity in lakh bales of170 kg. each)

	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001 (Provisional)
Total availability of indigenous cotton	202.87	214.51	202.50
Tota Iconsumptionofind igenous cotton	157.49	151.35	155.00
Production of cotton in Maharashtra	26.50	36.50	22.00

During current cotton year (2000-2001), production of cotton in the State of Maharashtra was affected due to adverse climatic condition.

(b) to (d) The import of cotton is under OGL since 1994.5 percent import duty is levied on imports. Imports are allowed in order to enable the industry to source cotton as per their requirement. Recently, export of cotton has been

made free. The export and import of cotton are allowed keeping in view the interests of growers and the industry. Cotton imported during the last three years is as under:

Year (Oct.-Sept.)	Quantity imported in lakh bales of 170 kg each
1998-1999	7.87
1999-2000	22.01
2000-2001	16.00*

*CAB estimates as on 24-02-2001

Export or textile in the first half of 2001

†4099. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that textile industry lias done some export during the first half of 2001;

(b) if so, the details for the items exported by the industry; and

(c) the quantity and value of the above export and how does it compare with the exports during the first six months of the previous year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The items of textiles being exported are readymade garments, cotton fabrics, yarn and made-ups, man-made textiles, wool and woollen textiles, silk, handicrafts, carpets and other floor coverings, jute and coir.

(c) As per latest available DGCI&S data, the textile exports January-May 2001 were US $ 4931.0 million as compared to US $ 4844.8 million during the corresponding period of 2000, recording an increase of 1.8 per cent.

†Originnl notice of the question was received in Hindi.